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Toy Loan Program Newsletter

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Director's Corner

As we look back on 2012, our expansion efforts have been realized. Nineteen new Toy Loan Centers were opened throughout Los Angeles County. We now serve over 2,500 children at 60 locations.

We launched the Toy Loan Twitter site in June 2012 and we currently have over 250 followers from across the globe. Public support for the program grows daily and Twitter is a great vehicle for announcing outreach events and Toy Loan grand openings.

The 2012 Winter toy drive brought in an unprecedented number of new toys from generous Angelenos. Over 1,000 new toys were received during the month of December alone. We are very grateful to the County Departments, corporate donors and private citizens who gave so much to Toy Loan this year.

The Adopt-A-Family Program provided holiday gifts to over 700 CalWorks families this year. The feedback from the sponsors has been overwhelming. Each sponsor indicated that the experience of being a part of Adopt-A-Family is extremely gratifying and very heartfelt.

Our 90+ volunteers continue to provide clerical support to the DPSS offices each day. Their service is a tremendous help and we are very grateful for their selfless volunteer service.

Thank you to our Toy Loan Advisory Board for helping us serve the families in need and improve children's lives each day.



Winter Toy Drives

Our 2012 Winter Toy Drives were a huge success, with the help of various schools, Internal Services Department, Los Angeles County Management Council, Department of Public Works, and the Beach Cities Community. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of the Toy Loan Program.

The following schools held Winter Toy Drives to benefit Toy Loan: Anza Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, Henry Patrick Elementary School, Peninsula Montessori School, Pomelo Community Charter School and Riley Elementary School.

DPSS staff Alex Ruiz with JR Revisky of Beach Cities Toy Drive



Taste of Soul

The annual Taste of Soul event was held on October 20, 2012. DPSS personnel assisted the public in providing critical CalWorks/CalFresh resources and free give-aways. The event was attended by thousands of people. It was a day filled with great food, great music and wonderful vendors.

DPSS Director Sheryl L. Spriller and DPSS Staff at Taste of Soul

Toy Loan Partners with LAUSD to Improve Attendance

2013 is off to a great start for The Toy Loan Program. Toy Loan partners with Los Angeles Unified School District Attendance Improvement Counselors to encourage students to maintain good attendance, and reinforce homework completion.

Toy Loan will host the first LAUSD grand opening at Mayberry Elementary School on January 17, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. The second LAUSD grand opening will be at Saticoy Elementary School, on January 31, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. A third LAUSD grand opening at Riverside Elementary School will take place on February 14, 2013.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

The Martin Luther King Day of Service is a part of United We Serve. Help to beautify a school, work at a homeless shelter or assist at the LA Foodbank on Monday, January 21, 2013. For a List of Volunteer Opportunities Visit: www.laworks.com or mlkday.gov.





Volunteer Programs Newsletter



Volunteer of the Year Award



Show your appreciation by nominating your office volunteer for the "Volunteer of the Year Award." The Board of Supervisors has proclaimed Monday, April 15, 2013, as "Volunteers: Soar Like An Eagle" Day in support of the annual Volunteer of the Year Award. In appreciation of their hard work and dedication, the volunteers will be honored at a luncheon on April 15, 2013 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion. Citizens are encouraged to donate their time and talents to public service programs and help give back to the communities that are in need. When volunteers donate their time, they are obtaining invaluable work experience that is highly marketable and will help them gain experience and knowledge in the workforce today. Office volunteer coordinators already have the Adult and Youth nomination forms. For more information, please contact Erica Moya, DPSS Volunteer Coordinator at: (213) 744-4348 or ericamoya@dpss.lacounty.gov.

Cesar Chavez Community Service Week



The 2013 Cesar Chavez Community Service week will commence March 25—March 29, 2013. There will be volunteer opportunities for County employees for a four hour day at Animal Care and Control or Parks and Recreation. Once again, locations will be on a first come first served basis. There will be limited spaces at every location, so please make sure you submit your request as soon as possible. During the service week, you can also participate by dropping-off (on employee time only) food items at your nearest drop-off location by going to <http://www.ceo.lacounty.gov/wpp> or by donating money to the virtual food drive. To make monetary donations, please go to <http://lafoodbank.org/get-involved/donate-funds/third-party-events/laco2012.aspx>. You can also access Cesar Chavez educational curriculum at <http://www.colapublib.org/chavez>. Thank you in advance for your continuous support.



XXVII Los Angeles Marathon

Rain or shine, the XXVII LA Marathon will take place Sunday, March 17, 2013. On-line registration for athletes and volunteers must be completed at <http://lamarathon.com>. The Volunteer Group Name will continue to be **LA County DPSS**, and **dpss** will continue to be the password. Volunteers must register on-line prior to the marathon in order to receive a t-shirt the day of the event. You will provide refreshing water at water station 24 to hundreds of athletes. This is a worthwhile experience and the runners are appreciative of your services. Please do not hesitate and come join us at the XXVII Los Angeles Marathon.

2012 Adopt-A-Family Program

Once again, the Adopt-A-Family Program proved to be another successful year. We were able to provide a cheerful Holiday Season to hundreds of needy families served by DPSS. Los Angeles County staff, private corporations, individuals and local businesses participated in this heartwarming and gratifying event. Sponsors were provided with the adoptee family contact information along with a 'wish list' of needed items. AAF sponsors "adopted" 712 needy families and brought smiles to more than 1,750 children this year. Of course, we weren't able to do this alone and would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for their continued support of the Adopt-A-Family Program. People are always willing to give back to the community, especially those families that are really in need during the Holiday Season, that's why this program is always successful. Some of this year's sponsors included: DPSS employees, Bank of America, Farmer's Insurance, TOMS, Banana Republic, BJ's Restaurants, Northrop Grumman, Fremantle Media, Kaiser Permanente, Wells Fargo Bank. Thank you for your continued support of the Adopt-A-Family Program, especially to those offices that submitted family referrals, thank you!



Toy Loan And Volunteer Services Calendar of Events

Happy New Year's Day		1/1
Grand Opening at Mayberry Elementary		1/17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Of Service		1/21
TLAB Meeting		1/29
Grand Opening at Satcoy Elementary		1/31
Grand Opening at Riverside Elementary		2/14
Valentine's Day		2/14
President's Day		2/18
LA Marathon		3/17
Cesar Chavez Community Service Week		3/25-29

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have topics of interest, articles and/or pictures for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4344 or via email at: toyloan@dpss.lacounty.gov. You can also follow us on twitter @toyloanla